



ACS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
COBHAM

SENIOR SCHOOL

THE
WORLD
NEEDS
NEW
THINKING.
GET
READY.





ROBERT CROWTHER
HEAD OF SCHOOL

HELLO, AND WELCOME TO ACS COBHAM, WHERE DIVERSITY, INNOVATION, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND GLOBAL AWARENESS COME TOGETHER TO DELIVER AN EXCEPTIONAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE.

ACS Cobham is home to 1,300 students aged 2 to 18 representing over 80 nationalities, taught by 300 expert teachers and staff members. Far more than just a school, ACS Cobham is a friendly, vibrant international community with a global outlook that guides our world-renowned curriculum. Based on international educational best practice, we offer a new kind of learning for a new kind of world citizen. Our goal is as simple as it is inspiring: to make our students ready for the challenges of tomorrow, so they thrive at every stage of their lives.

We foster critical thinking, an intrinsic love of learning and a fundamental belief in the worth of each individual. The opportunities to develop beyond the classroom provide some of the most memorable experiences that belonging to our community can bring. These elements are key to our mission of developing well-rounded, resilient individuals that can flourish on the global stage. Our team continually strive to promote the growth of the whole student – so they leave us with the skills required for a fast-changing world.

As they progress through the school our students are encouraged to tailor their studies to suit their talents and ambitions, while a range of outstanding co-curricular opportunities create a holistic educational experience. Equally important is our beautiful, leafy campus, close to central London. Our location offers students the best of both worlds – the stimulation of one of the world's great cities, combined with the charms of the English countryside.

Unique amongst our four schools, ACS Cobham offers boarding (full, weekly or flexi) as an option for students aged 13 to 18, who enjoy state-of-the-art facilities in our two boarding houses.

READY FOR A WORLD THAT KEEPS CHANGING.

OUR APPROACH TO LEARNING

At the heart of our educational approach is a commitment to get our students ready for whatever comes next. We achieve this by balancing the extensive opportunities we offer outside of the classroom, with the best academic programmes from around the world, including the renowned International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma.

Our programme for ages 11 to 16

Our curriculum draws from leading educational standards from around the world. Our students study all the core subjects you would expect from a leading school – maths, English, sciences and languages plus an extensive range of electives. We do not offer GCSEs or follow the national curriculum. Because of this, we see our students benefiting from sitting fewer exams, as we prefer them to achieve a deeper level of subject knowledge and understanding, beyond simply learning for a test.

We want our students to problem solve and think critically, persevere, have integrity, take risks in their learning, be creative and active, care about their local, national and international community and take action to make life better. We endeavour to make these transition years a journey of discovery, culminating in confident and versatile young adults.

We align our curriculum to rigorous standards, preparing students to undertake the renowned International Baccalaureate Diploma at age 16 to 18. Students are also encouraged to participate in a diverse range of co-curricular activities including drama, music and sports, and to choose from a variety of clubs such as Model United Nations and coding. The responsibilities of community service and leadership play a vital role in offering a complete student experience.



READY TO EXCEL.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES, AGES 16–18

We offer a comprehensive and rigorous curriculum, built upon leading international standards, and adapted to the needs of our diverse student body. Our innovative approach enables students to pursue multiple academic disciplines, become successful learners and grow into responsible global citizens.

The IB Diploma Programme (IBDP) is an academically challenging programme that ensures students aged 16–18 are ready for success at university and beyond.

It is:

- Broad and flexible, requiring six subjects which can be configured to differentiate and maximise each student's strengths
- A programme that encourages university-level skills, and the development of skills outside of the classroom
- Proven to be grade inflation free, making it a reliable benchmark of attainment
- A very popular entry qualification with UK, US, and other overseas universities, with many lowering entry requirements for IB students in recognition of its rigour
- More likely to get students into a Russell Group university, where they are more likely to earn a first-class degree*

*Analysis by the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

IB and A Levels grading compared

The percentage of students achieving a Diploma each year has remained constant over the last decade which indicates that, unlike the A Levels, there has been little grade inflation.

- The highest possible score for the IB is 45 points – only 0.2% of students worldwide are able to achieve this each year. The pass mark is 24 points, which is achieved by 79% of students worldwide each year
- According to the UCAS tariff, 45 points is the equivalent of five grade A* at A Levels, 40 points is the equivalent of four grade A* at A Levels and 35 points is equivalent to two grade A* at A Levels, and one grade A

Course requirements in two parts

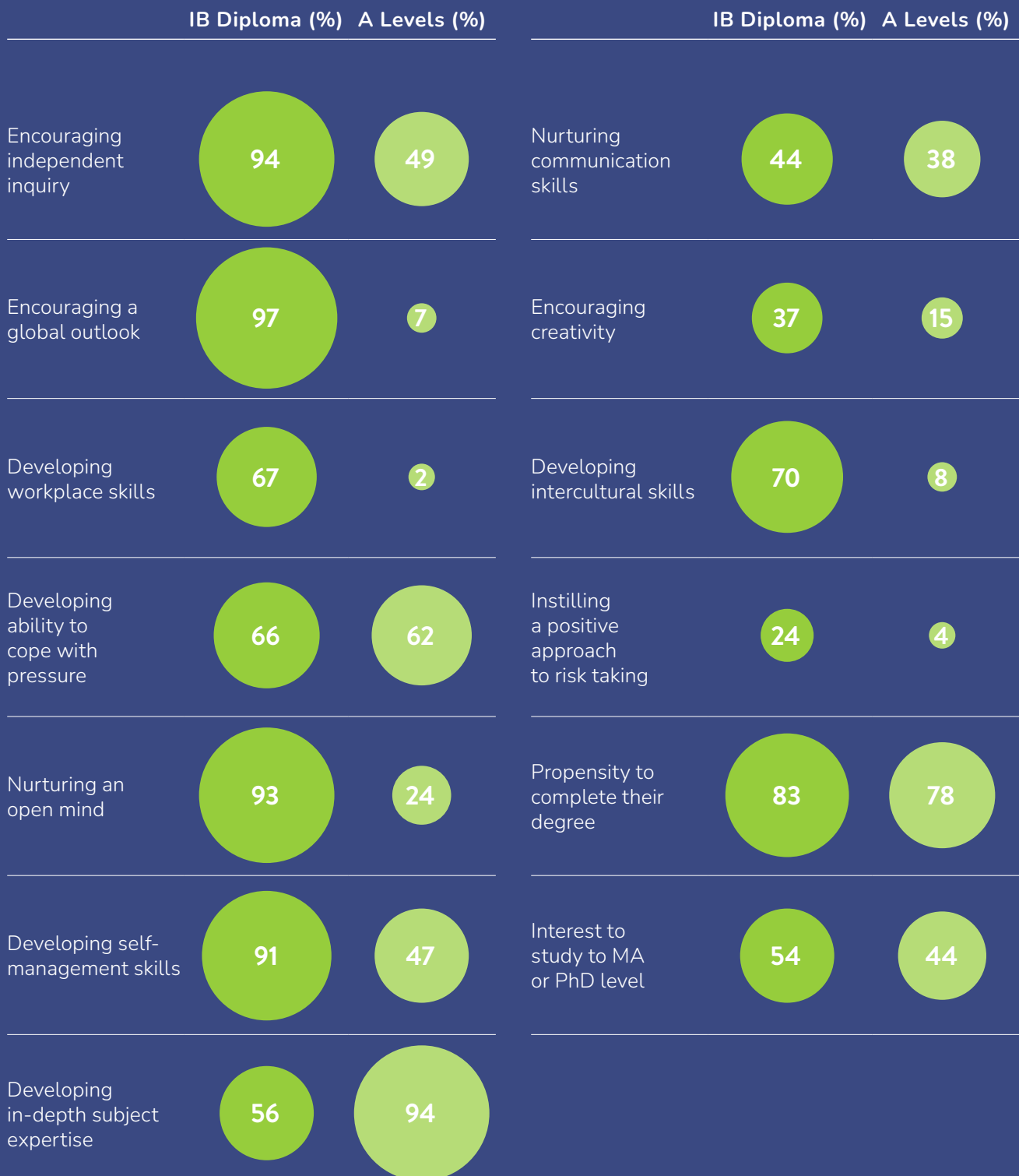
- **Subject Groups** – students take six subjects, three at Higher, and three at Standard Level. They must take maths, science, studies in language and literature, language acquisition, individuals and societies, and an optional arts or another from the first five categories
- **The Core** – contains three elements: Theory of Knowledge explores the foundations of knowledge and introduces students to university-level thinking; the Extended Essay is 4,000-words of self-directed research; and Creativity, Action and Service requires fixed hours engaged in artistic, sporting and/or voluntary work

Advanced Placement Programme

Our broad curriculum also incorporates Advanced Placement courses, which are widely accepted by universities in the US, UK and Canada. In addition, we offer the prestigious AP Capstone Diploma which helps students develop key academic skills, enabling them to become confident, independent thinkers and problem solvers.

UK UNIVERSITIES SCORE THE IB OVER A LEVELS

In a recent survey, UK university Admissions departments were asked how well students performed in the following qualities:



*The numbers represent the percentage who agreed or strongly agreed.

READY FOR THE FUTURE.

THROUGH EXPERT UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE

We invest the time and the expertise to ensure every student finds the perfect fit for their future university studies. At ACS Cobham we define fit as specifically meeting the academic, emotional, social, geographical and financial needs of our students. Our attention to detail is the key ingredient that improves each student's likelihood of graduating from their chosen university, and then experiencing success in their future careers.

We have three full-time University Counsellors, an Academic Principal, an IB Coordinator and AP Coordinator providing one-on-one student support in:

- Researching university options
- Essay/personal statement writing
- Career path selection
- Standardised test skills
- Financial aid/scholarship advice
- Meeting university representatives during college visits and fairs

Recent top-tier placements

UK Oxford, Cambridge, Exeter, Imperial, King's, LSE, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham, Queen Mary, Sheffield, Southampton and Warwick.

USA Chicago, Harvard, Penn State, California, Georgetown, Loyola, Miami, New York, Notre Dame, Purdue, Southern California, Texas A&M, Tufts, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Rest of the World Alberta, Barcelona, Calgary, Delft, Erasmus, McGill, Munich, Trinity College Dublin and Queens.



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The school
provided a
tailor-made
education for
our children.

PARENT



AN OUTSTANDING BOARDING EXPERIENCE.

FULL, 5-DAY, AND FLEXI OPTIONS AVAILABLE

ACS Cobham's boarding house is a thriving and dynamic place – a world-class school residence for boys and girls, aged 13 to 18. Our outstanding facility sits within a secure, 128-acre campus full of study, creative and recreational opportunities. We are surrounded by beautiful countryside, only minutes from the cultural and historic sites of London, and on the doorstep of major airports into Europe and the world beyond.

We understand the perfect boarding experience balances academic success with fun extra-curricular and weekend activities. Success in the renowned International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement ensures ACS boarders consistently win places to the university of their choice, anywhere in the world, and are ready for whatever comes next.

Our £20 million refurbishment of both boarding houses is now complete, offering unparalleled, modern and comfortable living spaces for our thriving community.



My favourite
part of being a
boarder is that
there is always
someone there
for you.

STUDENT

READY TO CONTRIBUTE.

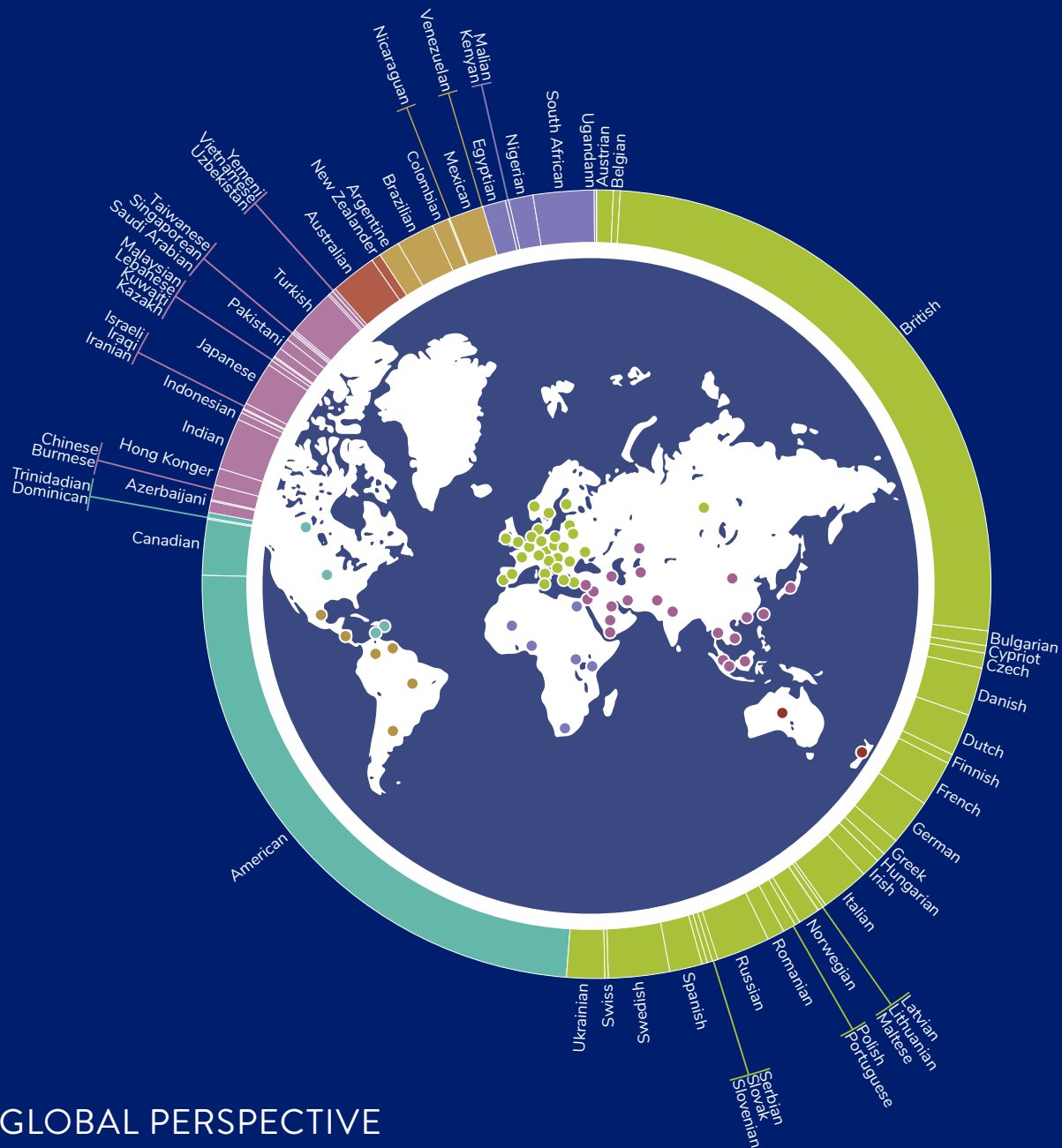
TODAY'S LEARNERS, TOMORROW'S LEADERS

To us, leadership is more than being the best scholar, athlete or debater at school. It is more of a deeper commitment to benefit the people around us, both near and far. In shaping young hearts and minds to respect cultural differences, we are also able to empower them to be ready to make a difference to the lives of others.

This ethos is most clearly evidenced in the number of student-led outreach programmes we run each year. It is also highlighted by our long-standing commitment to support brighter learning opportunities in Namibia, and the life-changing works of our global Disaster Relief Fund to help alleviate the impact of sudden tragedy wherever it may occur in the world.

In any given year, our students will support around 15 local and global good causes, through hard work, fundraising and ingenuity.

Our students are the ones to encourage artistic, cultural, interpersonal, intellectual and compassionate leadership, and extend learning beyond the classroom, and community beyond our front gates. They learn to turn compassion into action, and are proud to take responsibility for it.



GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Our students and staff come to us from all over the world. The result is a wonderfully open-minded, outward-looking culture that celebrates international diversity and harnesses different perspectives.

ACS Cobham's global outlook attracts expat and local families who want to ensure their children are ready to make a difference and contribute to society. Internationalism and our common humanity are at the heart of this philosophy. We are intensely proud of our multicultural identity and commitment to diversity and choice. We celebrate the things that make us different, not because they are fashionable but because they make the world a better, more dynamic place.

SEASONS
3

COMPETITIVE
TEAMS
57

SPORTS*
13

*FOOTBALL, CROSS COUNTRY,
GOLF, VOLLEYBALL, DANCE,
BASKETBALL, SWIMMING,
SOFTBALL, RUGBY, TENNIS,
BASEBALL, TRACK AND FIELD
AND BEACH VOLLEYBALL.



READY TO DREAM, INNOVATE AND CREATE.

TOP EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Providing a great all-round education takes an amazing range of facilities. That is why we have spent £35m over the past five years ensuring ACS Cobham remains an outstanding educational environment.

- Bespoke learning spaces, including science labs, libraries, IT hubs, art and music studios
- Performing Arts Centre with dedicated drama and music spaces, practice rooms, recording studio and a flagship 500-seat theatre
- Outstanding boarding houses
- Naturally lit, spacious art studios
- Modern science labs
- Extensive IT labs
- Film studio and editing suite
- 21st Century Interactive Learning Centre
- Multiple indoor and outdoor venues for our extensive co-curricular programmes, clubs and activities

TOP SPORTING FACILITIES

Our 128-acre campus is home to a wide-range of exceptional sports facilities. We were approved as a pre-training camp for the 2012 Olympics, and regularly play host to GB Basketball, England Volleyball and the South East Pentathlon Association.

- Showcase basketball/volleyball arena with tiered seating
- Competition-class 25-metre pool with tiered seating viewing gallery
- All-weather floodlit astroturf pitch
- Fitness suite and dance studio
- Six all-weather tennis courts
- An Olympic-sized all-weather running track
- Playing fields for football and rugby
- Cross-country course

READY FOR A FUTURE FULL OF OPPORTUNITY.

BURSARIES

ACS schools is a registered charity with the mission of advancing education for all. As part of our philanthropic goals we offer financially assisted programmes in the form of bursaries and scholarships. Our bursary programme enables us to offer places to talented students who would benefit from our world-class education but whose family circumstances make it difficult to meet our usual fees.

These financial awards range from 10% to 100% of our full fees. All bursaries are means-tested, with each award dependent on the student's individual circumstances. In line with our values, we look for students with enquiring minds, an international perspective and a strong desire to make a difference.

We offer Middle School bursaries for students aged 11 or 13 (Grades 6 or 8), and High School bursaries, including the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBDP), for students aged 16 (Grade 11). Students applying for the IBDP bursary should display the ability to benefit from an academically rigorous programme.

Our criteria for awarding bursaries

We welcome applications from parents who believe their child will benefit from our

international curriculum and who will make a real contribution to life at ACS Cobham. We ask that candidate pupils are resident in the UK and have the right to remain (subject to complying with full immigration laws and regulations). Following an application, we assess the student information and financial data provided and reach a decision in the March prior to the academic year of entry.

Calculating the bursary award

Bursaries are awarded for up to seven years and range from 10% to 100% of the full tuition fees. In exceptional circumstances, these awards can also include additional school-related expenditure so students can participate in every aspect of school life. We calculate the size of each bursary based on an assessment of parental income and other financial assets, so we ask for appropriate documentation as part of each application. We review bursary awards on an annual basis to ensure they reflect any changes in parents' financial circumstances.

How to apply for a bursary at ACS Cobham

If you would like further information on our bursary programme, please visit www.acs-schools/bursaries, call the team on **+44 (0) 1932 869744** or email cobhambursaries@acs-schools.com





JOINING THE ACS FAMILY

Whether you know exactly what you are looking for in a school, or would simply like an informative chat, our friendly and professional team are here to help.

One of the key differences to our approach is that we offer a rolling admission process. This means students of all ages join us at any point during the year, with more local children arriving at 11, 13 and 16 and staying with us until they leave for university. Our selection criteria is also more enlightened, with academic administrators and Admissions reviewing each candidate's past school records, references, questionnaires and any standardised testing scores, in order to fully appreciate their character and potential.

Through this lens we are proud to enrol students from the local area, alongside those from around the world. What unites them is a desire to learn in an international setting in order to thrive in

a more globalised world. Whatever your story, we have the sensitivity and expertise to help you every step of the way.

One thing we do recommend to all prospective students is come visit us first and see for yourself what makes us stand out. Where possible, we encourage visits during a school day. If this is not possible, we can arrange weekend tours on an appointment basis.

If you want to find out more, our offices are open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm, or visit our website acs-schools.com/cobham.

We look forward to meeting you in the near future.

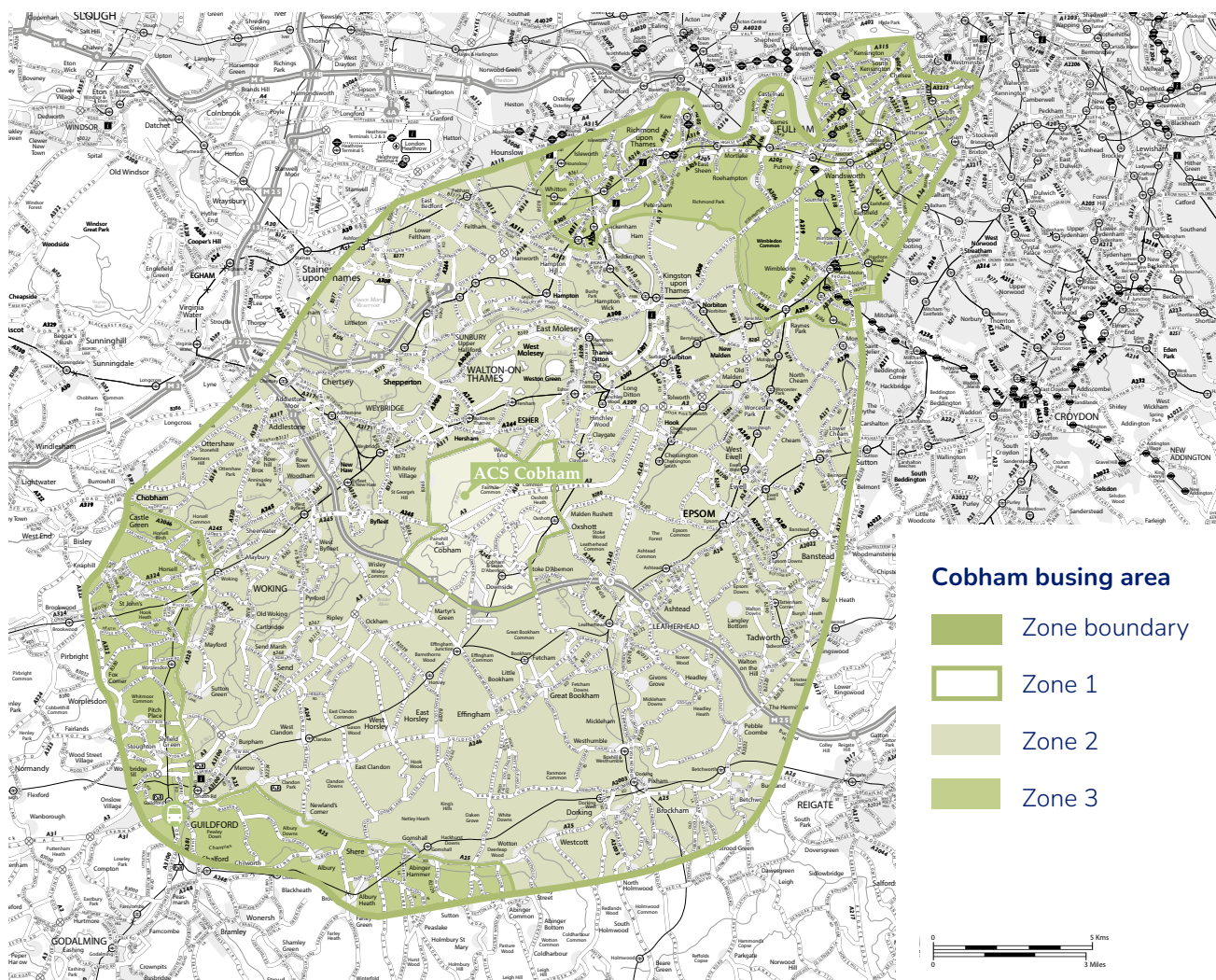
LOCAL BUSES

Because we understand the many challenges facing both local and relocating families, the ACS Cobham Transportation Department will make every effort to arrange busing for your children from their first day of school. ACS Cobham operates two types of service (door-to-door and shuttle), across three busing zones, with fees set according to distance from school. Zonal areas are indicated on the map.

Shuttle services from locations* such as:

- Claygate
- Oxshott
- East/West Horsley
- Esher
- Kingston
- New Malden
- Walton
- West Byfleet
- Weybridge
- Woking
- Guildford
- Putney Heath

*subject to requirements and availability



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